(*b*)—

Year.	Maintenance charges including special navigation establishment.
	RS.
1900–01	64,326
1910–11	60,244
1920–21	2,07,274
1930–31	2,49,160

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Government have made any enquiry as to why there has been a diminution in the tonnage between 1920–21 and 1930–31? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" No, Sir."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have seriously considered the question of improving the facilities for the boats moving about in this canal freely? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" Certainly. In fact Government have endeavoured to carry out some improvements."

Irrigation

Action taken by the Government on the report of the Palar River Enquiry Committee.

* 58 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken on the preliminary report of the Palar River (failure of freshes) Enquiry Committee; and

(*b*) whether they propose to call for the meeting of the committee for the purpose of considering the situation?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 546, dated the 3rd November 1931.

(*b*) The information called for from the Mysore Darbar at the instance of the Committee (vide answer to Question No. 588, dated the 3rd November 1931) has not yet been received. The Mysore Government have accepted a suggestion that a conference should be held between representatives of the Mysore and Madras Governments to settle certain outstanding irrigation disputes between the two Governments. The Palar case will be included among the items to be discussed. The question of calling for a further meeting of the Committee will be considered after the discussion.

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask, Sir, when the proposed conference of the representatives of the Madras and Mysore Governments will take place? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I cannot say exactly. We have written to the Mysore Government on the subject."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask why no answer has been received from the Mysore Government to the enquiry from this Government since the 3rd November 1931? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" The matter has been under correspondence with the Mysore Government. We hope to have a conference in the matter. Till that conference is held, we are not in a position to take any further steps."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that the Palar Irrigation Committee submitted only a preliminary report and wanted further facts to be placed before them to come to final conclusions? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I believe so, Sir."

Provision of irrigational facilities to the Salem district from the Mettur Reservoir.

* 59 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations have been received by the Government about the feasibility of providing irrigational facilities to some parts of the Salem district from the Mettur Reservoir by means of pumping;

(*b*) whether the Government have considered such a scheme before; and, if so, with what result; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to investigate into the feasibility or otherwise of such a scheme if they have not done it before; if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No.

(*c*) The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be consulted as to whether it is worth while ordering an investigation of the feasibility of the scheme suggested.

Progress of the high level channel scheme.

* 60 *Q.*—Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the stage at which the high level channel work is at present and whether the land acquisitions are over; and, if not, when they will be completed; and

(*b*) what the total extent provided in the present estimate for the high level channel scheme to be irrigated upon is?